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Letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

As members of the Security Council are aware, since its establishment on 15 April 1995, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) has been assisting my efforts to advance the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia through contacts with Somali leaders, civic organizations and the States and organizations concerned. UNPOS has also monitored closely the situation in and relating to Somalia and assisted me in providing periodic briefings and written reports to the Council. Furthermore, in the period following September 1999, UNPOS made sustained efforts in support of the initiative taken by the Government of Djibouti that led to the formation of the Transitional National Government of Somalia, an important milestone in the search for peace and reconciliation in that country.

In my report dated 11 October (S/2001/963), I informed the Security Council that, given the current security condition in Mogadishu, it was not possible for me to recommend the deployment of a post-conflict peace-building mission in Somalia. I also informed the Council that I would continue to monitor the situation, and that when the security situation allowed for the establishment of such a mission, I would submit a detailed proposal to the Council. In the meantime, I proposed that the mandate of UNPOS be renewed for another two years (2002-2003).

In the statement by the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30), members of the Council requested me to take a number of steps in support of the peace process in Somalia and to report to them at least every four months on the implementation of those efforts. They also requested me to consider the scope for adjustments, as appropriate, to the mandate for UNPOS.

Given the important and essential role of UNPOS, it is my intention to continue its activities for the biennium 2002-2003, at the current resource level, pending an improvement in the security situation that would allow me to submit a proposal for the establishment of a peace-building office in Somalia.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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